

Summer of Love

RAFFLES JAZZ CONCERT 2017

Celebrating the 50th anniversary
of the Summer of Love - San Francisco, 1967

5 MAY | 7 PM

*Brought to you
by
Raffles Jazz '17*

This show would not have been possible without the guidance and support of our instructors, Wei Xiang, Rani, Yizhe, Eddie, Sebastian and Fabian, our seniors, as well as Mrs Katherine Ng & Ms Mok Hoi Nam, our two lovely teachers-in-charge.

We would also like to thank the Audio-Visual Team for their patience and unfailing expertise.

And finally, thank you for coming down to be with us tonight!

We hope you enjoy the show!



The Summer of Love

"If you're going to San Francisco, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair..."

In 1967, an event took place in San Francisco that would become a defining moment in hippy history. 100,000 people convened over that summer, in an inspiring celebration of love and unity, and a show of what hippy culture really stood for. The media typically presented it as simply drugs, over-spiritualising, idealism and scruffy beards. Many mocked the hippies and joked that they were simply unrealistic with their talk of world peace, and their campaign for non-violence and freedom – but these were the believers, the bright-eyed dreamers; and the Summer of Love was their dream.

They came from vastly different walks of life, having left behind families, studies, jobs, and more, dropping everything to create this utopian miracle of a movement some say was never made to last. Today, however, almost 50 years on, we continue to celebrate the spirit of the Flower Children; their love for love, for beauty, and of course, for music, in a time of war and unrest. With this as the theme for our 2017 concert, Raffles Jazz brings to you songs of summer, love, and everything in between, in honour of the movement that continues to live on in our hearts. They say love is a friendship set to music, so perhaps in this night of shared music amongst friends, all of us here can have a one-night Summer of Love of our own.

SET LIST

COLD SWEAT

YARDBIRD SUITE

ORANGE COLOURED SKY

CHEGA DE SAUDADE

AIN'T NO SUNSHINE

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

BEI MIR BISTU SHEIN

~ INTERMISSION ~

MOANIN'

WATERMELON MAN

SUMMERTIME

YESTERDAY I HEARD THE RAIN

ÁGUAS DE MARÇO

SUNNY

Cold Sweat

Performed by: Kelly, Elyn, Stefan, Kaitlyn, Scott, Min Yih, Junius, and Ying Jie

Cold Sweat, originally sung by James Brown and written with Alfred Ellis, was released in 1967 and was an R&B hit. It was a radical departure from popular music of that time, with some today calling it the first funk song ever. Adapted from a previous song of his with the same lyric, called "I Don't Care", it went from bluesy to full-on funk as Brown's music preference took a turn in the same direction. With its almost cathartic expression of the lyrics in the original and its focus on the strong percussive and rhythmic feel as opposed to a tuneful melody, this song needs no complicated chord progression or words to make it a completely enjoyable experience.

Yardbird Suite

Performed by: Nicholas, Xueyan, Ting Yuan, and Min Yih

Charlie "Yardbird" Parker wrote this bebop standard that exploded in popularity, even becoming an anthem of beboppers, when he was a mere 19 years old. Considered his most lyrical work, Parker himself was not the only one to write lyrics to the tune, with 3 different versions existing today. The 1946 master recording of this legendary song was even inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2014. With its unexpected twists and turns keeping you on your toes, this swing takes you on a spin back to America of the 1940s and always ends just when you start getting in the groove!

Orange Coloured Sky

Performed by: Justin, Elyn, Gillian, Tangming, Min Yih, and Tara

Bringing to you now a classic swing published in 1950 and popularised by Nat King Cole, the band lightens the mood with this timeless piece covered by many other prominent jazz artistes like Doris Day, Paul Anka, Michael Buble, and more recently, Lady Gaga. Typically performed with brass instruments to give it that extra "pop" and playful, flamboyant feel, this infectious, albeit corny song is sure to win you over with its catchy tune and cheesy lyrics, and make you fall in love with the idea of love at first sight, all over again.

Chega De Saudade

Performed by: Justin, Elyn, Stefan, Kaitlyn, Pek Yoke, and Kaye

A huge hit by Joao Gilberto in his 1959 album, *Chega De Saudade*, or “No More Blues”, is a Portuguese song written by prolific composer Tom Jobim, and is widely considered the first recorded bossa nova song. The word “saudade” is loosely translated to “blues”, but more specifically refers to a passionate and almost addictive longing, in this case for the singer’s lover who has left him.

The song begins dejectedly, focusing on his longing for his lover, but experiences a “volta” as it changes to a brighter melody, and the singer thinks of how his lover might return. A somehow groovy yet melancholic song, this tune is sure to soothe any broken hearts in the audience tonight.

Ain't No Sunshine

Performed by: Tian Jiao, Victoria, Jeremy, Tangming, and Junius

Bill Withers' 1971 album *Just As I Am* brought to the world the melodic strains of *Ain't No Sunshine*, a song with lyrics that simply and powerfully express the worry and longing of the singer. He wrote the song when he was still a factory worker, wanting to express how there are some things you miss that simple aren't good for you. *Ain't No Sunshine* has become jazz standard, having been covered by singers like Michael Jackson and Eva Cassidy. With a slow, laid back groove accentuated by the bass and guitar motifs, this poignant performance by the band will surely tug at your heartstrings.

When You Wish Upon A Star

Performed by: Nicholas, Elyn, Ting Yuan, Scott, and Kaye

If you don't know this one, we honestly wouldn't know what to say. A well-loved Disney ditty from the 1940 movie “*Pinocchio*”, this slow swaying melody won the Academy Award for Best Original Song - and for good reason. More than two decades before the *Summer of Love*, this song already spoke of the importance of love, and believing against the odds to make our dreams come true. Hoping to unite the audience in a shared nostalgia for a childhood gone by, the band would like to recreate a little bit of that magic in the PAC tonight.

Bei Mir Bistu Shein

Performed by: Tian Jiao, Xueyan, Stefan, Kaitlyn, Pek Yoke, and Ying Jie

It looks German, it sounds German - but it really isn't. Bei Mir Bistu Shein is actually Germanised Yiddish. The song originally came from a 1932 Yiddish comedy musical, but was adapted with English lyrics and more typical swing rhythms. It shot to fame the previously unknown Andrew Sisters, earning them the first ever gold record for a female vocal group in 1937. This particular rendition, first done by The Hot Sardines, brings to the table a sassier take that's not only faster, but also includes a new playful "digga digga doo" motif. And now, from the band to all of you, this song's here to say: Bei Mir Bistu Shein- which means you're grand ;)

Moanin'

Performed by: Nicholas, Victoria, Jeremy, Ting Yuan, Min Yih, Kaye, Junius, Ying Jie, and Tara

Relatable to anyone who has ever had to wake up at an ungodly hour for any reason, Moanin' is the titular opening track of an album by Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. The song soon became a jazz standard recorded by numerous bands, even featuring in the anime Sakamichi no Apollon. Originally an instrumental composition, this tune is simply overflowing with fun and funk, no matter how it's done. In this particular rendition featuring all four of Raffles Jazz's vocalists, the band gives their own take on how this classic should be done.

Watermelon Man

Performed by: Justin, Xueyan, Jeremy, Tangming, and Min Yih

Instantly recognizable by its jumpy beat and iconic melody, Watermelon Man was composed by Herbie Hancock for his debut album Takin' Off. Drawing from his own personal experiences, he integrated the childhood memories of the cry of the watermelon man and the rickety sounds of his cart into the tune. It was the funk remix version in Hancock's '73 album, Head Hunters, however, that shot the song to success. Taking on a tribal theme with beer-bottle blowing and yelping, as well as swaggering off-beat synth sounds and added motifs, it was a complete overhaul. The band brings you the latter rendition tonight, with its laid-back groove and smooth swells that will calm your nerves after a long and grating day.

Summertime

Performed by: Kelly, Victoria, Gillian, Ting Yuan, Pek Yoke, Kaye, and Tara

Never was there a more relevant song for this sunny little island right by the equator: as Ella rightly said in the song: "You perspire, and you perspire - and what do you get? Perspiration!" Summertime, was written by George Gershwin for - believe it or not - an opera, but evidently, took on new life in the numerous jazz covers of it. With it's jaded yet joking tone about the daily grind, this song is endlessly relatable, not to mention humorous, and we hope to give you a taste of that tonight.

Yesterday I Heard The Rain

Performed by: Kelly, Xueyan, Gillian, Tangming, Scott, and Tara

First written and sung in Spanish by Armando Manzanero in 1967, Yesterday I Heard The Rain, then Esta Tarde Vi Llover, came to be one of his most successful songs. Many English versions of this emotional and passionate ballad were later sung by Tony Bennett, Dionne Warwick, Shirley Bassey, and even Perry Como. The insistent melody bring out the sad voice of the speaker who laments his loneliness now that his lover has left him.

Águas de Março

Performed by: Tian Jiao, Victoria, Gillian, Tangming, Pek Yoke, and Ying Jie

Another bossa nova tune by Tom Jobim, Águas de Março is Portuguese for "Waters of March" and was inspired by the heavy storms and rainfall that occur in Rio de Janeiro in March. The items sung are swept away by the rushing water, as the words too are similarly pushed onward by the driving, repetitive rhythm and melody that tumble on without end. The song unexpectedly focuses on the river bringing "the promise of life", expressing an endearment for the flooding rain.

Sunny

Performed by: Kelly, Xueyan, Jeremy, Kaitlyn, Scott, and Junius

Rated as one of the Top 100 songs of the century, Sunny was first recorded by Bobby Hebb as a single in 1966. Written by the singer-songwriter in the aftermath of his brother's murder, it was an effort on his part to remind himself and others to always look at the bright side no matter how things get. Re-imagined, re-mixed, and released by numerous artists, as well as used in movies and TV shows, it has yet to fail to bring smiles wherever it goes.

Musicians

Bass

Justin Ang
Kelly Siah
Lim Tian Jiao
Nicholas Ho

Drums

Elyn Tzen
Victoria Lim
Xueyan Huang

Guitar

Gillian Cheong
Jeremy Xiao
Vincentius Stefan Santoso

Keys

Kaitlyn Ng
Tay Ting Yuan
Zou Tangming


Soloists

Kong Pek Yoke
Kwek Min Yih
Scott Tay

Vocals

Han Ying Jie
Junius Pun
See Kaye
Tara Teo

~ * ~



*Thank you for
coming to support
our concert!*